

Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Council

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/montana-invasive-species-program>

The Invasive Species Bulletin provides you with all the latest news on invasive species in Montana and the region. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, contributions, questions, corrections, or comments.

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Montana News

DNRC Hires Invasive Species Outreach Specialist

A Carroll College graduate with a decade of high-level experience has joined Montana's fight to keep nonnative species from degrading the state's lands and waters.

Kate Wilson, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carroll College and a Master's of Science at the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, has been hired as Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

"We are thrilled that Kate has decided to return to Montana and apply her passion and expertise to our program," said Stephanie Hester, DNRC's Invasive Species Program Manager. "In Alberta, Canada, she built the province's aquatic invasive species program from the ground up. As director of the Pend Oreille Basin Commission in Idaho, she participated in the development of some of the first watercraft inspection stations in the West. She has an incredible skill set."

Following the discovery of invasive mussels in two Montana waterways last year, Hester said DNRC has been working to strengthen invasive species management at the local, state and regional levels. The department's program now includes administration of an aquatic invasive species grant program, coordination of the Montana Invasive Species Council, and establishment of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission, an effort focused on coordination with state and regional partners for early detection and preparedness of aquatic invasive species in the Columbia River Basin – the last mussel-free watershed in the lower 48 states.

"It's imperative we improve management of the invasive species already here in Montana, as well as preparing for new threats," Hester said. "Prevention is the best strategy to combat invasive species, and Kate will play a key role in working

with partners and the public to build awareness of invasive species and how to prevent them.”

Wilson’s Master’s thesis involved assessing the awareness, attitudes, and actions of resident and nonresident boaters and anglers in Florida toward aquatic invasive species. Her work resulted in recommendations to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for improving education and prevention measures.

“I’m passionate about conserving Montana’s irreplaceable natural resources and excited to apply my expertise to the prevention and management of all invasive species that threaten our state,” Wilson said.

Wilson will start her new position with DNRC in October 2017.

Appointees Named to Invasive Species Council

HELENA, Mont. –For the past two years, the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) has been working on a strategy to improve invasive species management in the state. The result of that work is the *Montana Invasive Species Strategic Framework*, which offers more than 90 coordinated actions to better protect

Montana lands, waters, and public health from invasive species. The framework served as the basis for Montana’s long-term plan to address invasive mussels after they were detected in two waterways last year.

“Montanans cherish our outdoor recreation and open spaces, and those spaces play a crucial role in our state’s vibrant economy,” Bullock said. “It’s imperative that we do everything we can to protect Montana from the threat of invasive species that disrupt our land, water and native species. None of us want another knapweed infestation spreading across Montana.”

The MISC was renewed by the 2017 Legislature and is charged with advising the governor on a science-based, comprehensive program to identify, prevent, eliminate, reduce and mitigate the impacts of invasive species in Montana and to coordinate with public and private partners to develop and implement statewide invasive species strategic plans. The following individuals / organizations have been appointed to serve on the council...[read more](#)

DNRC Awards \$180,000 for Aquatic Invasive Species Grants

DNRC received 14 grant applications totaling \$481,307, which is double the amount of submissions received in the past. More than \$180,000 was awarded for projects to prevent and control aquatic invasive species across Montana. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) offers state-funded grants for the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The goal of the grants is to protect the natural resources of Montana from severe and unacceptable damage from aquatic invasive species. Pending legislative approval of funding for the next biennium, the next grant cycle will be announced in early 2018.

Funded projects include:

Applicant	Project Name	Amount
Whitefish County Water District	Whitefish Lake Mussel Response Initiative Ph 2	\$15,000
Salish Kootenai College	Sequential Dry Ground/Foliar Herbicide Applications for the suppression of flowering rush	\$15,000
Petroleum Co. CD	Central & Eastern MT Mussel Response	\$14,000
Garfield Conservation District	Conservation District and Watershed support for AIS through Big Sky Watershed Corp.	\$26,000
Sanders Co.	Invasive Milfoil Management for Sanders Co.	\$15,000
Missoula Co. Weed District	Save Montana's Waters Media Project and Inspect Before Launch Planning	\$20,000
Glacier County CD	AIS Prevention and E&O in Glacier, Toole and Liberty counties	\$5,000
Flathead Basin Commission	Upper Columbia Pilot Project Planning	\$5,000
Missoula Co. Weed District	Blackfoot, Clearwater, Swan AIS Cooperative Program	\$13,000
Lincoln County Weed District	Lincoln Co. Monitoring	\$15,000
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Flathead K9 and Watercraft Inspection Station	\$15,000
Broadwater County Conservation District	Broadwater CD Mussel Response Project	\$20,000

Regional AIS News

Visit the Aquatic Invasive Species Network at westernais.org for the latest AIS news in and around the region. (Thanks, Stephen)

Other

Montana Invasive Species Council Meeting

Date: August 30, 2017

Time: 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Location: State Capitol Building, Rm. 172

August Weed Post

[The August Weed Post](#) was written by Noelle Orloff, plant identification expert with the MSU Schutter Diagnostic Lab. The post summarizes 2017 activity in the lab related to common sources of non-target herbicide injury.

August is Tree Check Month

The annual campaign to check for signs of Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is this month. Check out these resources:

ON THE WEB:

www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com, www.dontmovefirewood.org/free-downloads-tree-check-month-2017

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/asianlonghornbeetle

YOUTUBE: youtube.com/user/BeetleBusters

For more information about MISC and to access archives of this e-newsletter go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/montana-invasive-species-program/misc>